

QUEEN VICTORIA IS DEAD

Died at 6:30 o'Clock Last Evening, Surrounded by Her Children and Grandchildren.

Recognized the Prince of Wales and the German Emperor at Noon, Then Relapsed Into Unconsciousness, and Passed Away as Night Fell.

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW SOVEREIGN

Followed by the Doctors' Bulletin, Conveying the Sorrowful News to the World.

Scenes in the Bed Chamber at Osborne House While the Beloved Ruler's Life was Ebbing.—Incidents at London.

LONDON, Jan. 22.—Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, died in Osborne House, Isle of Wight, at 6:30 o'clock this evening. The lord mayor of London received the first official notification of the Queen's death in a telegram from the Prince of Wales, dated "Osborne, 6:45 p. m." The dispatch read:

My beloved mother has just passed away, surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

ALBERT EDWARD.

James Reid, R. Douglas Powell and Thomas Barlow, the physicians who were attending her Majesty, issued the following bulletin, dated "Osborne House, Isle of Wight, Jan. 22, 6:45 p. m.":

Her Majesty, the Queen, breathed her last at 6:30 p. m., surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

The Prince of Wales prepared the public for news of the Queen's death in the following dispatch to the lord mayor, sent from Osborne at 4 p. m., two hours and a half before the end of the sovereign's life:

My painful duty obliges me to inform you that the life of our beloved Queen is in the greatest danger.

ALBERT EDWARD.

In reply to the foregoing telegram, the lord mayor, Mr. Frank Green, dispatched the following:

"I have received your royal highness's sad intimation with profound grief, which is shared by the citizens of London; which pray that under Divine providence the irreparable loss to her Majesty's devoted family and loyal subjects throughout the empire may still be averted. Will your royal highness be pleased to accept this heartfelt expression of my deep and sincere sympathy."

At 7:35 p. m. the lord mayor sent the following in reply to the telegram from the prince announcing his mother's death:

"Your royal highness's telegram announcing the nation's great loss I have received with profound grief and distress and have communicated this most sad intimation to my fellow-citizens. Her Majesty's name and memory will forever live in the hearts of her people. May I respectfully convey to your royal highness, to all the members of the royal family, the earnest sympathy and condolence of the city of London in your great sorrow."

AT OSBORNE HOUSE.

Incidents of the Last Hours of Her Majesty's Life and Her Death.

COWES, Isle of Wight, Jan. 22.—Queen Victoria is dead and Edward VII reigns.

The greatest event in the memory of this generation, the most stupendous change in existing conditions that could possibly be imagined has taken place quietly, almost gently, on the anniversary of the death of Queen Victoria's father, the Duke of Kent. The end of her career, never equaled by any woman in the world's history, came in a simply furnished room in Osborne House. This most respected of all women, living or dead, lay in a great four-posted bed and made a shrunken atom whose aged face and figure were a cruel mockery of the fair girl who in 1837 began to rule over England. Around her were gathered almost every descendant of her line. Well within view of her dying eyes there hung a portrait of the Prince Consort. It was he who designed the room and every part of the castle.

In scarcely audible words the white-haired bishop of Winchester prayed beside her as he had often prayed with his sovereign, for he was her chaplain at Windsor.

With bowed heads the imperious ruler of the German empire and the man who is now king of England, the woman who has succeeded to the title of Queen, the princes and princesses and those of less than royal designation listened to the bishop's prayer. Six o'clock passed. The bishop continued his intercession. One of

the younger children asked a question in shrill, childish treble and was immediately silenced. The women of this royal family sobbed faintly and the men shuffled uneasily. At exactly 6:30 Sir James Reid held up his hand, and the people in the room knew that England had lost her Queen. The bishop pronounced the benediction.

SUFFERED NO PAIN.

The Queen passed away quite peacefully. She suffered no pain. Those who were now mourners went to their rooms. A few minutes later the inevitable element of materialism stepped into this pathetic chapter of international history, for the court ladies went busily to work ordering their mourning for London.

The wheels of the world were jarred when the announcement came, but in this palace at Osborne everything pursued the usual course. Down in the kitchen they were cooking a huge dinner for an assemblage the like of which has seldom been known in England, and the dinner preparations proceeded just as if nothing had happened.

The body of Queen Victoria was embalmed and will probably be taken to Windsor Saturday. The coffin arrived last evening from London.

An incident characteristic of the Queen's solicitude for others occurred two days ago, when, in one of the intervals of consciousness, she summoned strength to suggest to her dressers, who had been acting as nurses, to take the opportunity of getting some fresh air. Monday afternoon she asked that her little Pomeranian spaniel be brought to her bedroom.

It was thought the Queen was dying about 11 in the afternoon and carriages were sent to Osborne cottage and the rectory to bring all the princes and princesses and the Bishop of Winchester to her bedside. It seemed very near the end; but when things looked worst the Queen had one of the rallies due to her wonderful constitution, opened her eyes and recognized the Prince of Wales, the Princess and Emperor William. She asked to see one of her faithful servants, a member of the household. He hastened to the room, but before he got there the Queen had passed into a fitful sleep.

Four o'clock marked the beginning of the end. Again the family were summoned, and this time the relapse was not followed by recovery. The Prince of Wales was very much affected when the doctors at last informed him that his mother had breathed her last. Emperor William, himself deeply affected, did his best to minister comfort to his sorrow-stricken uncle, whose new dignity he was the first to acknowledge.

From all parts of the world there were still pouring in to Cowes messages of condolence. They came from crowned heads, millionaires, tradesmen and paupers, and were variously addressed to the Prince of Wales and the King of England.

GERMAN EMPEROR MAY REMAIN.

Emperor William's arrangements are not settled. His yacht arrived here today (Wednesday), but it is believed he will not depart until after the funeral. Several other royal personages are likely to be present at the function which will probably be a ceremony never to be equaled in this century.

The record of the last days of the reign of Victoria is not easy to tell. The correspondent of the Associated Press was the only correspondent admitted to Osborne House, and his interview with Sir Arthur John Riggs, private secretary to the late Queen, was the only official statement that had been given out. For several weeks the Queen had been falling. On Monday week she summoned Lord Roberts and asked him some very searching questions regarding the war in South Africa. On Tuesday she went for a drive, but was visibly affected. On Wednesday she suffered a paralytic stroke, accompanied by intense physical weakness. It was her first illness in all her eighty-one years, and she would not admit it. Then her condition grew so serious that, against her wishes, the family were summoned. When they arrived her reason had practically succumbed to paralysis and weakness.

The events of the last few days, described by the bulletins, are too fresh to need repetition. At the lodge gates, the watchers waited nervously. Suddenly along the drive from the house came a horseman, who cried, "The Queen is dead," as he dashed through the crowds. Then down the hillside rushed a myriad of messengers, passing the fatal bulletin from one to another. Soon the surrounding country knew that a King ruled over Great Britain. The local inhabitants walked as if in a dream through the streets of

Cowes, but they did not hesitate to stop to drink the health of the new monarch.

INCIDENTS IN LONDON.

Scenes Just Before the Queen's Death and After the Sad News.

LONDON, Jan. 22.—There is sorrow throughout the British Empire. Everywhere the people are mourning the Queen's death. The latest bulletins previous to the announcement of her Majesty's death, especially the message sent by the Prince of Wales, dispelled the last gleam of hope, the crowds silently dispersing from in front of the Mansion House and only a few groups awaited the appearance of the final, inevitable announcement.

There was a remarkable scene outside of the Mansion House early this afternoon. On the receipt of the alarming reports, a mob resembling a groan was uttered by the hundreds of people assembled and then some one started to sing the national anthem. All heads were bared and in a moment the crowds were singing "God Save the Queen" with a fervor proving how earnestly they wished for her recovery. The passengers in private carriages, cabs and omnibuses joined in the singing, the drivers reverentially doffing their hats.

A scrap of paper a foot square, posted on the wall of the Mansion House at 6:30 o'clock to-night gave the first notice to London's homeward hurrying thousands of the death of the Empress Queen and the advent of a King. Access to the bulletin was difficult by reason of the fact that excavations had been made in the course of the work of improving the street. But the bare heads of the silent group under a flickering gas jet told the crowds on the bus tops that the Queen was no more.

A quarter of an hour later more than a thousand newsmen had invaded the streets with black-ruled newspapers, crying "Death of Queen," while through dark streets boomed the deep tones of St. Paul's Cathedral and the bells of the city rejoicing the news.

Mr. Balfour's message announcing the Queen's death says that her Majesty died peacefully.

THEATERS CLOSED.

All the theaters and places of entertainment, it is announced, will be closed indefinitely.

There is little doubt that the funeral of Queen Victoria will take place at Frogmore, though nothing in regard to this matter has yet been announced.

Her Majesty was so closely related to the European courts, big and little, that the gathering of royalties at the obsequies will be unprecedented.

The news of the Queen's death reached all the towns in the kingdom a few minutes after it was received by the Lord Mayor of London and was quickly spread throughout the country districts by the tolling of bells.

Prince and Princess Louise of Battenberg arrived at Osborne just too late to see her Majesty.

The papers devote columns of space to historical and personal reminiscences and the scenes and incidents of the Queen's life. The emphasis was laid on the fact that her Majesty paid the penalty for her devotion to the affairs of state. It is generally recognized that until a few days ago there was no harder worker in the kingdom. Roughly estimated, she signed 50,000 documents yearly. No dispatch of any gravity was ever issued from the Foreign Office until seen by the Queen, and some idea of the work thus entailed is gathered from the fact that the Foreign Office handles considerably over a thousand dispatches weekly. After every meeting of the House of Commons, the government leader of the House of Commons was in the habit of forwarding to the Queen an abstract of the business done. She personally attended to these papers and frequently returned them with marginal notes, asking for explanations.

Ellen Terry's appearance at Sandringham before the Queen is recalled as the only event in which her Majesty ever prompted an actress. Mistaking a pause by Miss Terry for forgetfulness, the Queen gave her the cue very softly. As Miss Terry did not take the cue, the Queen repeated it more loudly, and the actress, suppressing her merriment, accepted the cue and proceeded with her part.

OF PATHETIC INTEREST.

Of pathetic interest now is the inscription on the last wreath of the Queen, which was placed on the Bishop of London's coffin Thursday last. It did not bear her name, and this is the first instance on record of such a happening. It was regarded at the time by the court officials as a sign of serious import.

Emperor William's yacht Hohenzollern has been ordered to leave Kiel immediately. She is expected to arrive at Cowes Friday. No arrangements have yet been made for Emperor William's return to Germany, which is dependent upon eventualities.

This evening there were few visible signs in London that anything unusual had happened. A drizzling rain kept most people within doors. Those who were turned away from the theaters or music halls wandered along the streets of the West End without special object. No large crowds gathered anywhere.

The shops closed as soon as the bells began to toll, and the blinds of Mansion House were drawn down as soon as the message from the Prince of Wales was received by the lord mayor. The bell tolled at St. Paul's Cathedral was the gift of William III, and is usually rung on occasions of the death of royal personages. Archbishop of Canterbury, lord mayors of London and Bishops of London. The tolling continued for two hours to-day at intervals of a minute, and could be heard for miles in the direction of the wind.

Some hundreds of people stood in front of the cathedral, around the spot where Queen Victoria prayed on the sixtieth anniversary of her accession to the throne. At the usual dinner of the Hilary Term of Gray's Inn the master teacher said: "Amid great sorrow we must follow the practice of the constitution and recite 'God Save the King.'" The chapel bell tolled eighty-two times and the benches drank the health of the King.

Telegrams arriving from all parts of the empire re-echo the deep feeling of sorrow pervading all classes. These show that everywhere bells have tolled and public performances and private functions suspended. In Dublin the expressions of regret were universal. The bells of St. Patrick's Cathedral were tolled. Earl Cardigan, the lord lieutenant, was absent from Dublin yesterday, but it is expected that he will return at once to preside at a meeting of the Irish privy council to proclaim the new King.

The news was received with the greatest sorrow at Balmoral, Windsor and Kitz. When Queen Victoria was regarded in a specially personal manner by the inhabitants, the telegrams telegraphed the tidings to the former Empress Eugenie at Farnborough.

COOL AUDIENCE

WALKED OUT OF A BURNING PLAY-HOUSE WITH COMPOSURE.

Smoke Was Filling the Place, Yet Nobody Showed Signs of Becoming Panic-Stricken.

HEAVY LOSS AT CINCINNATI

INTERIOR OF THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE A SMOKING MASS.

Nothing Left of the Building Except the Walls, and Nothing Saved from the Fittings.

E. H. SOTHERN A SUFFERER

WAS PLAYING "HAMLET" WHEN THE FIRE BROKE OUT.

And Assisted in Preserving Order, Instead of Attempting to Save His Company's Effects.

HIS LOSS PROBABLY \$50,000

BUILDING WORTH ABOUT \$200,000 AND THE FITTINGS \$30,000.

Other Structures Damaged to the Extent of \$100,000 or More—Narrow Escape of Gymnasts.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 22.—The Grand Opera House is a ruin except for its stanch cuter walls. The circumstances aided by a display of coolness, perhaps never witnessed before under such trying conditions prevented its loss from being saddened into a catastrophe.

The play set for the night was "Hamlet" by the E. H. Sothern company. Owing to its great length the play began at 7:45 p. m. The house was packed by a brilliant audience. Many women without escorts were present. The first scene had been finished and in the second Mr. Sothern acting the part of Hamlet, had spoken but a few lines when a slight disturbance was observed in the orchestra seats about the fourth row from the orchestra on the south side of the center aisles. It was caused by smoke at that point. An usher went down the aisle and quietly asked the people to be seated, saying there was nothing wrong. Mr. Sothern at this point stepped to the front of the stage and also assured the audience that everything was right. To further remove apprehension Mr. Sothern resumed his part, but before he had spoken two lines the smoke issued in such volumes that there was a spontaneous movement of the people in its vicinity.

Without further suggestion, or advice, one of the most remarkable scenes ever witnessed in a crowded audience took place. Without a single shout or anything else indicating a leader, the dispersal of the audience began and was carried out with as much order and composure as if no such thing as a fire had ever been known. In the lower part of the house the abundant passage to Vine street gave an easy egress to the greater part of the audience. A large number seated near the orchestra were assisted by the actors and actresses to mount the stage and to make their exit by the stage door on Longworth street. This assistance by the company was all the more appreciated when it is understood that it was rendered at the cost of an entire neglect of their own personal property.

LOSSES OF THE ACTORS.

A man seated in the fourth row from the orchestra describes the exit of the audience, as one of the most orderly that he ever witnessed. He says there were many women near him without escorts who exhibited the utmost composure and took the best and safest way to reach a place of safety. Nothing to indicate the possibility of a panic occurred. It appears from every indication that the fire started in some way from the furnace underneath the orchestra. It soon communicated to the stage and to this fact is owing the loss of the greater portion of the property of the Sothern company. Mr. Sothern estimates his loss at \$50,000. His company was compelled to leave the streets clad in their costumes and to lose the greater portion of their personal effects left in the theater. Fortunately the gallery, which has the least commodious means of exit was not crowded and those who were in that part of the theater escaped with no serious accidents. Here and there some one stumbled on a steep stairway, but ready help was rendered and there was no one trampled or hurt. The same calmness marked the behavior of the people in the balconies, which were emptied as quietly as if the play had been ended.

Notwithstanding the combustible nature of the interior, the fire was a long time in burning out. As late as 10 o'clock the upper part of the Vine street front was still burning. This portion of the building was occupied by the Cincinnati Gymnasium, which had a costly equipment. Adjoining the rear of the opera house, separated by an alley is the large Butler building. The fire entered this at the upper stories and the roof and two upper floors of that building were practically destroyed. The upper portion of the Gifts Engine House, which adjoins the Butler building was seriously damaged by the fire.

THE LOSSES.

The present lessees of the Grand Opera House are Rainforth & Haylin. They are

the successors of the late Robert E. J. Miles, one of the most widely known theatrical managers in his time in the country. It was for him that the old Mozart building was remodeled and made into the Grand Opera House. The building belongs to Mrs. Charles P. Taft, whose husband is the proprietor of the Times-Star. It was bought by her father, the late David Sinton, from the old Catholic Institute, about thirty years ago, for \$30,000. The additions that had been made to it since that time are probably balanced by decrease in valuation in real estate, so that the loss may be put at \$30,000. It is estimated that the lessees have an interest in the building representing their outlay in fitting it up amounting to \$30,000 or \$40,000, which is covered by insurance.

The principal losses in the Butler building are the American Engraving Company; Achert & Henckel Engraving Company, who occupy the upper floor; the Bruner, Woods Company, on the first floor, and S. Rosenthal, printer; Proctor & Collier, advertising; Max Woelcher & Son, surgical instruments; Ilsen & Co., music publishers; Rausch & Goldsmith and S. Silver, optician. The loss to the greater number of these is from water. The Ilsen Music Company report a loss of \$25,000. The loss on the others will probably reach \$75,000 to \$100,000. There was no insurance on the Grand Opera House building.

In the front portion of the Opera House building, on the first floor, the National Cash Register Company had its quarters. Nearly all of its stock was removed. It was insured for \$5,000. James McArdle, merchant tailor, occupied a large store-room on the first floor on Vine street. His stock was slightly damaged by water, the fire being confined to the other part of the building. The Cincinnati Gymnasium have an insurance of but \$2,000 on the property, which was worth \$12,000. Ilsen & Co.'s insurance is \$12,000 and Rausch & Goldsmith \$10,000.

Across the street from the Butler building and the Gifts engine house is the Palace Hotel. It required all the skill of the manager to prevent a panic among the guests. A few of the most nervous did have their trunks taken down stairs, but the bulk of them were brave enough to remain in the hotel.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

There have been several theories advanced concerning the origin of the fire. Mr. Charles Schmalstieg, secretary of the Sinton estate, said: "I was in the theater about 8:05 o'clock seated in the balcony, left side, front row. I glanced below and saw the flames below the stage, and hastily went to investigate. Reaching the boiler room I found everything all right. By this time I had become alarmed and was hastily leaving the room. In no excited rush, I believe, the fire started in the electrical room by crossing of wires. We will rebuild and be ready for next season."

Mr. Michael Gavin, general manager of the stage part of the house blamed the fire on the "supers," who he said were probably smoking down stairs. Peter McCarthy, guardian of the actresses' dressing rooms, said that the fire did not start in a dressing room.

Probably the most danger was experienced by the occupants of the gymnasium. They were in a remote upper part of the building far removed from the origin of the fire and with no means of quick communication with the theater proper. Many of the members were engaged in exercising some in the bath and all of them in their gymnasium costumes. There was more or less panic in this part of the building when the alarm reached the gymnasium. Many of the members rushed down the stairway half clad, while others were rescued by fire ladders. At one time there was a rumor that one or two of them had been hurt, but it was not confirmed.

Mr. Sothern spent some time after taking his wife to her hotel in the vicinity of the fire. He announced that he expected to meet his next engagement at Detroit as usual. Mrs. Sothern, who rendered heroic assistance to the ladies near the stage by helping them to escape in that way, completely collapsed after the excitement was over and had to be taken to her room.

Years ago a private entrance was erected leading from the Gifts Engine House into the balcony of the theater. This was done for the double purpose of securing assistance in case of fire and of affording the members of the fire company an opportunity to become the guests of the opera house. To-night this entrance served an excellent purpose in affording means of escape to the occupants of that portion of the balcony.

Family Escaped Unhurt.

Manager Anderson, of the Grand Opera House, arrived in the city at noon yesterday, intending to take the midnight train for Chicago, where he was called to attend an important meeting of the Associated Vaudeville Managers. While witnessing the performance last night, he was called to the telephone and advised of the burning of the Grand Opera House at Cincinnati, and that his wife and family, who were witnessing the performance, had escaped unhurt. A peculiar condition of affairs exists in theatrical circles in Cincinnati. Manager Anderson, in addition to owning the Columbia, is also the lessee of the Walnut-street Theater. Managers Rainforth and Haylin, lessees of the Grand, are the owners of the Walnut, and lease to Manager Anderson. The owners, therefore, are very anxious to get possession of their home and heart, declare and proclaim the high mighty, Prince Albert Edward, etc., who, by the death of the monarch, has become our only lawful and rightful liege, etc. This proclamation will give the new monarch to decide how far the ancient customs will be modified to suit modern methods, but in a country where precedents are so firmly adhered to as England, it may be anticipated that we shall follow closely on the acts which prevailed when the Queen ascended the throne. The Privy Council, which is a very large body, will meet at once at St. James's Palace, where the form of proclamation, declaring that "We, etc., with one voice and consent of tongue and heart, declare and proclaim the high mighty, Prince Albert Edward, etc., who, by the death of the monarch, has become our only lawful and rightful liege, etc. This proclamation will give the new monarch to decide how far the ancient customs will be modified to suit modern methods, but in a country where precedents are so firmly adhered to as England, it may be anticipated that we shall follow closely on the acts which prevailed when the Queen ascended the throne. 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